

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Published Since 1877

True Love Waits "hits roof," launches school effort

ATLANTA (BP) — Minutes after 18,000 teenagers and youth ministers watched 350,000 True Love Waits cards reach the roof of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Southern Baptists announced a new campaign to send the abstinence movement to schools.

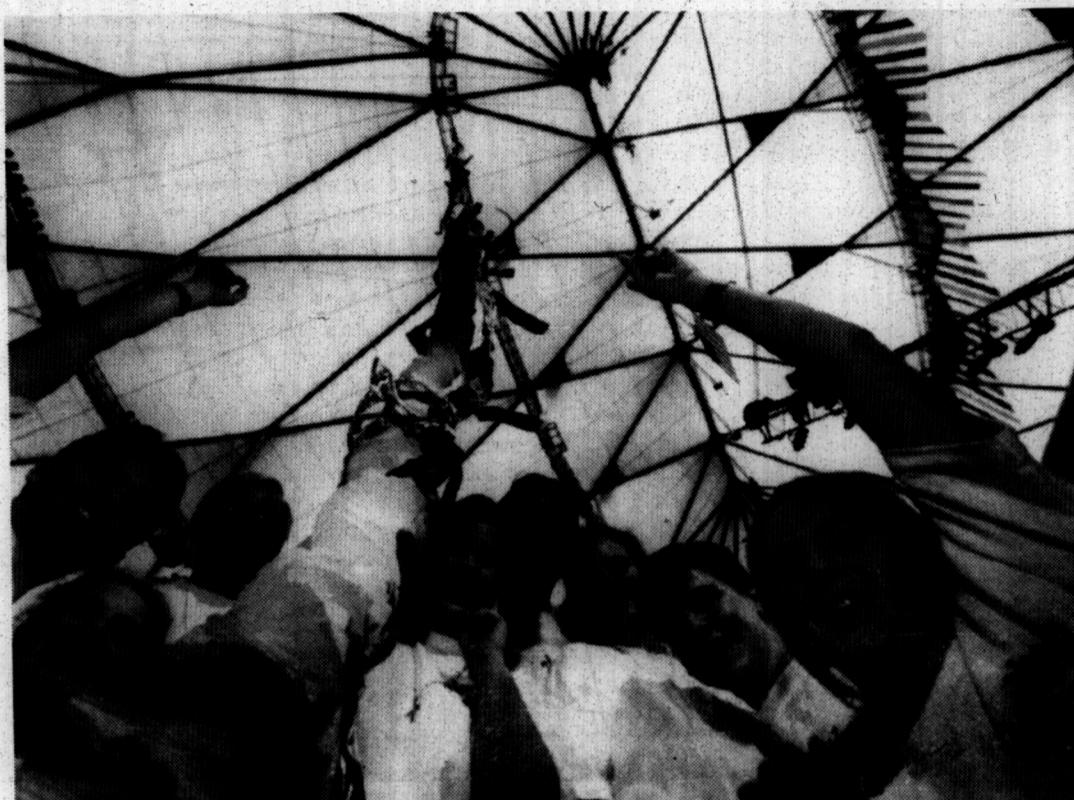
To the beat of the Christian rock group Newsboys, the commitment cards were hoisted to the roof of the 27-story Georgia Dome as young people lifted their friends above the crowd in a fad known as surfing. Later, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign announced a new goal and theme — "True Love Waits Goes Campus."

"On Valentine's Day 1997, our goal is to display True Love Waits cards on every school campus in America — all 56,000 schools in the U.S.," Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, told those attending the "True Love Waits - Thru the Roof" celebration at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Feb. 11.

The 350,000 cards pulled to the roof of the Georgia Dome were gathered from all 50 states and from 76 countries — with the countries accounting for about half the commitments by young people.

More than 100 young people from First Church, Conyers, Ga., and Tulip Grove Church, Hermitage, Tenn., worked for hours the night before the event stringing the cards onto a 200-foot steel cable which was lifted to the roof of the dome by a giant wench and pulley mechanism. An overflow of cards, including some that were delivered the day of the celebration by attending teens, was added to a second cable.

Mississippian Lee Yancey, minister of



SUCCESS CELEBRATION — Celebrating on Feb. 11 at the base of a 27-story column of sexual abstinence pledge cards at the Georgia Dome are youths of First Church of Conyers, Ga., and Art Herron, student ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, which sponsors the True Love Waits campaign. From left are Joe Stockdale, Katie Sanders, Herron, Lindsey Rich, **Youth Minister Lee Yancey**, Ashley Bedingfield, Timothy Boyd, and Meg Ingram. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

education and youth at First Church, Conyers, headed up the project. He is the son of Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

True Love Waits, an international cam-

paign to challenge teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage, was launched by the BSSB in April 1993. The first national True Love Waits rally was held in Washington, D.C. in July 1994.

For more than a year, organizers have been planning a second national celebration to honor young people who have made commitments to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The Thru the Roof rally coincided with Atlanta '96, a contingent of youth leaders representing 125 denominations and Christian youth organizations gathered in Atlanta for leadership training conferences. Other contemporary Christian artists who performed at the hour-long rally included DC Talk and Michael W. Smith.

With the new campaign, True Love Waits Goes Campus, young people are being asked to take the abstinence message to high school and college campuses, Paul Turner, international spokesperson for the abstinence campaign, said.

"I believe with True Love Waits Goes Campus, we are embarking on the most exciting phase of our abstinence campaign," Turner said. "It will empower students to take the message of Christ and abstinence to their peers at school."

This summer, organizers of True Love Waits Goes Campus plan to train high school and college students in using Christian clubs at school to coordinate abstinence campaigns on their campuses, Turner said. On Valentine's Day 1997, True Love Waits Goes Campus is expected to culminate with a visible demonstration of commitment cards at the schools that participate.



GOING SURFING — Two exuberant teenagers "surf" past each other with the help of other youths during a performance by the Newsboys at the True Love Waits - Thru the Roof celebration in the Georgia Dome. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"True Love Waits Goes Campus will allow students to take Christ to their campuses with the channels already in place," Turner said. "Campus clubs provide a natural vehicle for that, and campus club organizations and True Love Waits can partner to strengthen and support each other."

Young people who take the True Love Waits pledge to remain abstinent until marriage sign commitment cards which state: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Turner said he hopes President Bill Clinton's January announcement of a national campaign against teen pregnancy to be led by Nashville gynecologist Henry Foster will be used to promote sexual abstinence. Each year, about 1 million American teenagers get pregnant. That is approximately 11% of females between the ages of 15 and 19, according to White House statistics. Twice as many teens have babies in the United States than in Britain, and six times more than in France, Italy, and Denmark.

"We must share that abstinence is the only safe sex option that is 100% fool-proof," he said.

Trinity Broadcasting Network of Anaheim, Calif., videotaped the True Love Waits - Thru the Roof celebration for broadcast on Valentine's Day 1996.

More information about True Love Waits, which is supported by 42 other denominations and Christian student organizations, may be obtained by calling 1-800-LUV-WAIT. To order a True Love Waits Goes Campus kit, call 1-800-458-2772.



CONCERT JOY — Maggie Dye (left) and Shannon Taylor (right) show their excitement during a concert by contemporary Christian artists DC Talk. The youth-oriented music was a part of the True Love Waits - Thru the Roof celebration in Atlanta, Ga., on Feb. 11. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The changing Convention

The seven-member SBC Program Structure Study Committee (PSSC) completed its recommendations which were adopted last year at the Atlanta meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The bylaw change, requiring two years, will be approved this June at the New Orleans convention meeting.

Now the Implementation Task Force (ITF), chaired by Bob Reccord, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., has assigned various teams to begin this process.

To date, ITF has given 1,800 man-hours. This has been the most sweeping organizational change ever attempted in the SBC. Little attempt has been made to give any estimate of the cost. We are told the "savings will be significant," even as the task force asks for \$495,000 for a consulting firm. Estimates of the restructuring costs have run wild — from \$2 million to \$20 million. No one really knows.

What will the convention structure look like when completed? The Foreign Mission

Board will become the International Mission Board; the Home Mission Board will become the North American Mission Board. They will work together under the Great Commission Council. The Brotherhood Commission and the Radio-Television Commission will become part of the North American Mission Board.

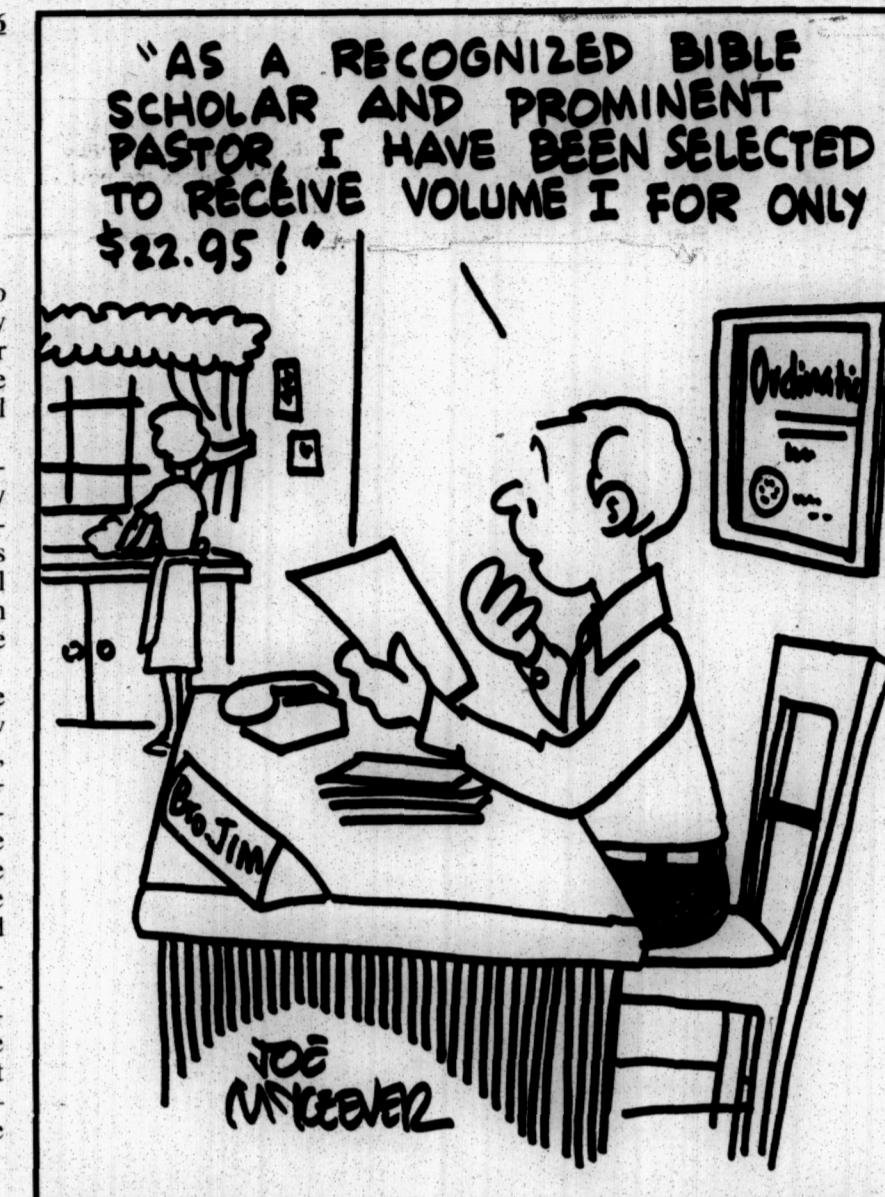
The Stewardship Commission will be merged with the Baptist Sunday School Board and the SBC Executive Committee. The Historical Commission will be given over to the seminaries and the Education Commission will be dissolved.

Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president and chief executive officer, says evangelism is the driving force of the restructuring and that the SBC exists for missions (SBC *Life*, Feb-March 1996 issue). It is offered as a covenant for a new century and is "fueled by the desire to reach lost souls of the world."

We are beginning to hear from the people affected by these

Guy Henderson

Thursday, March 7, 1996



America could be headed for anarchy or revival, Barna says

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Evangelical Christian researcher George Barna says America faces one of two outcomes in the next five to 10 years: moral anarchy or spiritual revival.

Despite talk of revival in some evangelical circles, Barna adds he isn't optimistic.

"If I were a betting person, I would bet on the fact we are going to see massive moral anarchy take over our country," he said in a daylong seminary on "What Effective Churches Have Discovered" Feb. 19 in Nashville.

Current talk about revival sweeping America has no statistical basis, Barna said.

True revival would result in significantly more people professing faith in Jesus Christ, and that is not happening, he explained.

Despite the growth of some churches, there has been no overall increase in the number of people becoming Christians, he said. Barna said his research shows that 70% to 80% of church growth in America is "transfer" growth, meaning the movement of Christians from one church to another.

The Christian church in America has been unable to stop a mas-

sive moral and ethical decline, Barna said. As evidence, he cited statistics such as:

— A majority of people who marry this year will have cohabited with someone before getting married, even though individuals who cohabit are significantly more likely to end marriages in divorce than individuals who never live with a mate outside of marriage.

— One-third of Americans believe it is acceptable for two people to have an affair with each other, as long as both of them want the affair to happen.

— 50% of people getting married this year believe their marriage will end in divorce.

— 71% of American adults believe there is no such thing as absolute truth, a view shared by 64% of born-again Christians and 40% of evangelical Christians.

— 96% of American adults believe in God, but 45% believe Jesus committed sins while on earth.

— A majority of Americans believe salvation may be found in either of two ways: through relation with Jesus Christ or through good works.

— Americans aren't keeping

changes. Many do not wish to relocate and others apparently will be reassigned, retired, or dismissed. Perhaps this is where the "significant savings" will take place.

Bob Reccord is asking Baptists to have patience and pray for the committee. The committee will seek to deal in fairness with all the sensitive personnel issues. In less than half a dozen years the restructuring of the SBC will be complete.

Perhaps by then we will be standing in line to report how wonderful it is and asking, "Why didn't we do this sooner?" Or will it be that the mergers will have only weakened the strength of the convention, the battlefield strewn with the wreckage of institutions and commissions.

The SBC Executive Committee is willing to believe the former, that restructuring is the impetus to propel us into the 21st century. Bob Reccord is right — prayer will be a necessity as we face this awesome task.

THE FRAGMENTS

The great chifforobe

Probably few things have undergone as much transformation as where we hang our clothes. Admittedly, closet space was no problem when you had only three clothing choices: Sunday clothes, school clothes, and "just anything." Moreover a 16-penny nail driven behind the door could hold all your clothes. Houses may have had 18-foot ceilings, but you couldn't use anything but the first seven feet. A closet was unheard of, except off behind the house.

Second, the church needs true leaders, Barna said. Most pastors are not gifted with the leadership skills necessary for directing the work of a local congregation, he said. "We do not have people with strong, visionary leadership."

One solution is to help more

pastors develop leadership skills, but another is to rethink the way church leadership is structured, he said.

Third, Christians must be willing to embrace new models for the local church, Barna suggested. "We are following a [European] model developed 500 years ago in an agrarian, rural culture.... This model was great for that context, but not for today."

Goliath would have wanted one. Bevel-edged mirrors graced the front and there was a key for every door, including the hat compartment. It took six men to deliver it.

This Chippendale nightmare

dominated every room it was in. The huge drawer at the bottom could be used for an extra bed when company came. You could hang the equivalent of five doors of clothing in it. For a long time the standard greeting when someone came to visit was, "Y'all come to see the chifforobe?" Moving it was an all-day job. Had we notched the door for every hernia it caused, it would have rivaled the pistols of Billy the Kid.

Mama moved on to mansions where chifforobes are not needed and eventually we had to "do something with the chifforobe." Everybody loved it; nobody wanted it. No one really had a house that would hold it. There was more "board feet of lumber in it than in my house," said one bewildered brother.

"Why don't we let it go with house?" and "Sell it to the highest bidder," were greeted with cold silence.

Today there are closets equal in size to the average bedroom. You walk into them. Mama would have loved them, but I doubt she would have traded the great chifforobe for closets without character.

— GH

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Deadline looms for several legislative proposals

By Paul G. Jones II and Elizabeth K. Holmes

The following bills being tracked by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) are still alive in the 1996 session of the Mississippi Legislature, having been passed in the chamber in which they were introduced and sent to the other chamber.

The deadline for final action on these bills in the other chamber is midnight, March 13.

Bills that survive the deadline will either be sent to the governor for his signature (if there were no changes) or submitted to a conference committee composed of members of both chambers (if changes were made).

The conference committee will attempt to iron out any differences between House and Senate versions of a particular bill.

A bill number followed by (CS) is a committee-substituted version of the original bill.

◆ **Abortion:** *Senate Bill (SB) 2817(CS)* requires the Mississippi State Department of Health to enforce the abortion informed consent laws. This bill passed the Senate and has been referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the House of Representatives, where it was amended.

The amendments are seen to be helpful to the bill.

◆ **Alcohol:** *House Bill (HB) 86(CS)* authorizes operation of brew pubs in the state. A brew pub is a restaurant that manufactures beer for consumption in the place of business. However, the committee-substituted version contains language that allows sale outside the restaurant through distributors.

This bill passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 149(CS) tightens the grounds for suspension of a driver's license after conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). This bill passed the House and has been referred

to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 427(CS) requires the posting of health-related alcohol warning signs where alcohol is sold. This bill passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 486 is a specialized bill that applies exclusively to a Pearl River County food manufacturer that uses alcoholic beverages in processing food items. This bill passed the House and is before the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 2213(CS) lowers the DUI blood alcohol content (BAC) for drivers under age 21 from .10 to .02. This bill passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Judiciary "A" Committee.

◆ **Church and state:** HB 322 permits the use, reading, or posting in public schools of historical and legal documents containing religious references. This bill passed the House and has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

◆ **Education:** HB 31(CS) requires criminal background checks for public school teacher applicants, and prohibits convicted felons from teaching in public schools. This bill was passed by the House and by the Senate Education Committee. It is on the calendar of the Senate to be voted on at any time.

◆ **Gambling:** HB 75(CS) permits employment of convicted felons in any aspect of a casino operation seven years after conviction, unless individually denied by the executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC).

This bill passed the House and has been referred to both the Corrections Committee and Finance Committee of the Senate.

HB 521(CS) permits colleges and taxpayer-supported state universities to teach courses in casino management, auditing, and security as part of a general business degree, as well as courses in related casino activities.

This bill passed the House and has been referred to both the Finance Committee and Universities and Colleges

Committee of the Senate.

Senators on both committees need to hear of our opposition to this bill.

HB 1131(CS) implements a problem gambling prevention/treatment program in the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

One-third of the funding will come from fines levied by the MGC, one-third from casinos, and one-third from businesses that supply casinos.

This bill passed the House and has

been referred to both the Finance Committee and Economic Development, Tourism, and Parks Committee of the Senate.

◆ **Obscenity:** SB 2495 authorizes certain counties (primarily Monroe County) to adopt ordinances regulating massage parlors and public displays of nudity. This bill passed the Senate and has been sent to the House, where it was assigned to the County Affairs Committee.

Legislators can be reached during the session at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-1018. Telephone: (601) 359-3770.

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Jones is executive director, CAC. Holmes is CAC consultant for family and women's issues.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, March 7, 1996

Published Since 1877

FMB reports record gains for 1995 starts, baptisms

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Proclaiming the gospel and ministering in the name of Christ, Foreign Mission Board missionaries and their partners overseas experienced record gains in 1995.

A record 2,612 newly constituted churches represented a 21% jump from 1994 and contributed to a record 39,073 partner churches. A significant number of new churches (367) and baptisms (6,548) were reported among people groups considered inaccessible to traditional mission work.

For the first time in history, total membership among affiliates overseas topped the 4 million mark — to 4.11 million. The year's 287,806 baptisms, the second-highest number in history behind last year's 302,132, amounted to the equivalent of a Pentecost harvest every four days. Mission strategists say it likely represents more than 1 million professions of faith.

The most telling story about baptisms, however, was the 14-to-1 member-to-baptism ratio among overseas partners, contrasting sharply with the 40-to-1 ratio among Southern Baptists in the United States.

Foreign Mission Board leaders say they see results overseas as affirmation of the very gospel missionaries preach, that signs follow those who believe and proclaim Jesus Christ. They consider the record showing a result of discovering where God is moving in the world, and rolling up their sleeves to go to work beside him.

Church growth surveys in recent years have helped missionaries zero in on lost people in all parts of the world. The clearer focus played a role in increasing the number of new churches, said evangelism and church growth analyst Jim Slack, who compiled the annual report.

The total number of churches on the field increased by 6.65% in 1995, from 36,638 in 1994. At that growth rate, the

total will double in 10 years, Slack said.

Growth was strong in Eastern Europe, which has benefited in recent years from the fall of communism. In church starting, Romania led Southern Baptists' overseas affiliates with 313 new churches. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Baptist union there has started at least one church every week. In Russia, 130 new churches and 6,693 baptisms were reported. Ukraine, formerly a Soviet republic, reported 9,119 baptisms in 1995.

Brazil, a populous, mature mission field, led other countries in the total number of baptisms, with 71,993. Kenya reported 23,078, Nigeria 20,000, South Korea 16,050.

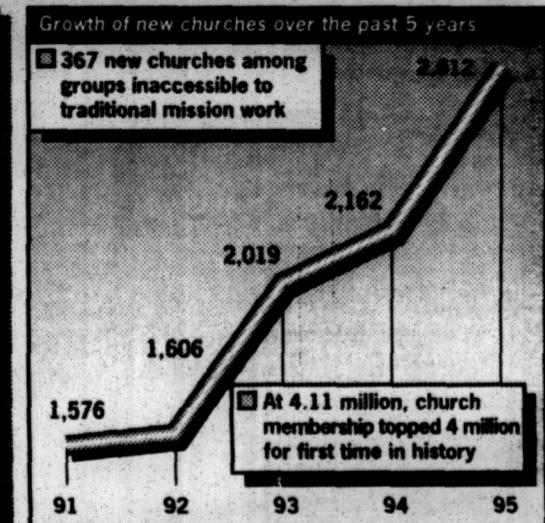
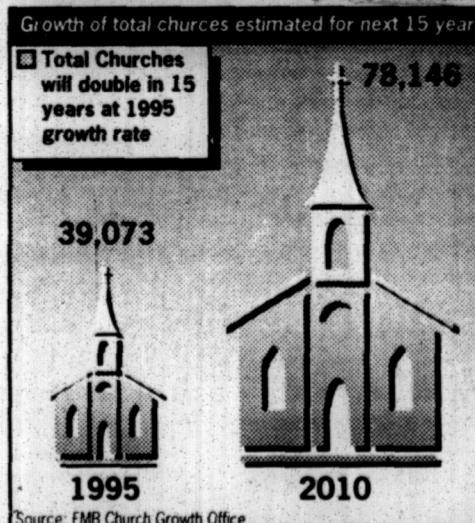
The tiny southeastern African nation of Malawi produced 15,857 baptisms, or one for every seven members, about twice as many per member as the worldwide average in 1995.

Slack singled out discipleship among other notable gains in 1995. A heightened sensitivity to members "leaving out the back door" contributed to a 74% increase in discipleship efforts, he said.

Bible teaching ministries increased by more than 11%. Record growth also occurred in Vacation Bible School enrollment, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood enrollment, literacy training, and youth ministries.

Overseas fields report record gains

Foreign Mission Board missionaries reported a record 2,612 newly constituted churches in 1995 — a 20.8 percent increase from 1994.



A Baptist Pope

Ed Pope (left) evangelism director for Southern Baptists in both North and South Dakota, talks about Baptist work with an unidentified man at his office in Sioux Falls, S.D. Pope, one of eight home missionaries included in the 1996 Week of Prayer for Home Missions on March 3-10, works in a large area of the U.S. where only .3% of residents identify themselves as Baptists. Pope and his wife Marilyn have served under Home Mission Board appointment as associational missionaries in the Dakotas for the past 3-1/2 years. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)



Christian motorcyclists

"Riding for the Son" is the motto of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA). The non-profit organization now boasts over 43,000 members nationally. Begun in 1975 by Herb Shreve, the organization now has some 350 chapters across America — three in Mississippi. Members are people who love "bikes," bikers, and Jesus. They minister in the outdoors — any place where bikers gather — distributing Bibles, witnessing, sharing skills in mechanics, hospitality, first aid, and women's and children's ministries. On Feb. 24, Lake Tiak O'Khata in northeast Mississippi was the site of a retreat for the Mississippi chapters of CMA (top photo). There, Elaine Cunningham (above right photo, left) and Lenna Radde (above right photo, right) of Starkville admire a CMA member's bike. Cindy and John Powell (above left photo), members of CMA and First Church, Poplarville, also attended the retreat. For more information, contact CMA, P.O. Box 9, Hatfield, AR 71945; telephone (501) 389-6196. (Photos by Guy Henderson)

Missionary killed in Peru

AREQUIPA, Peru (ABP) — A Southern Baptist missionary was among 117 passengers killed in a Feb. 29 jet airplane crash in Peru.

Lynn Davidson, 42, was a passenger on a Peruvian jet that apparently caught fire and crashed five miles short of the airport in Arequipa in southern Peru. All 117 passengers and six crew members died in the crash of Faucett Airlines Flight 251.

Davidson, a missionary in Peru since 1987, was returning home from a church-growth strategy meeting in Lima.

Flight 251 was about to complete the 465-mile trip from Lima to Arequipa. The crew had been cleared for final approach and landing, when all contact was lost and the plane went down in a remote mountain canyon.

Davidson was from Santa Fe,

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Victory predicted by both sides in Pontotoc County prayer suit

By Beverly Pettigrew Kraft

for a case to modify its ruling, this will be the case to do that," Horton said.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 10 ruled that Mississippi's school prayer law was unconstitutional except for allowing prayer at high school graduation. The 5th Circuit said the state school prayer law passed by the 1994 Legislature but never put into effect was a violation of the requirement of separation of church and state.

Lisa Herdahl, 35, says years of court decisions are on her side, but supporters of school prayer say her lawsuit offers the courts an opportunity to relax the prohibitions.

On Dec. 20, 1994, Herdahl, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Washington-based People for the American Way filed suit against the Pontotoc County School District, Superintendent Jerry Horton, the school board, the principal, and the assistant principal at North Pontotoc Attendance Center.

Five of Herdahl's six children, all baptized as Lutherans, attend North Pontotoc Attendance Center's first through 10th grades.

Long before Herdahl sued, students said prayers and read Scripture over the school intercom at the beginning of each school day.

On April 18, 1995, Biggers halted the prayers over the intercom, saying the practice was a violation of separation of church and state.

Horton, a member of First Church, Ecru, said: "We understand based on the court decisions of the last 30 or 40 years that we've got a difficult fight ahead of us. The odds are stacked against us."

"I think if the court is looking

for a case to modify its ruling, this will be the case to do that," Horton said.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 10 ruled that Mississippi's school prayer law was unconstitutional except for allowing prayer at high school graduation. The 5th Circuit said the state school prayer law passed by the 1994 Legislature but never put into effect was a violation of the requirement of separation of church and state.

Supermarket owner Pat Mounce, president of the Pontotoc County Citizens for School Prayer Committee, said the group is prepared to fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"If we lose at the Supreme Court, we think this case will be a perfect example for a constitutional amendment," to allow prayer in schools, she said.

Mounce's group has raised about \$140,000 to pay the school

district's legal expenses.

Kraft writes for the Jackson Clarion-Ledger. Reprinted with permission, © The Clarion-Ledger.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HouseTops

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 7, 1996

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

WMU ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 18-19

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson
Monday 1:45 and 6:15 p.m., and Tuesday 9:15 a.m.



ESTHER BURROUGHS
Home Mission Board



RANDY SPRINKLE
Foreign Mission Board



JOYCE MITCHELL
WMU, SBC

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Mississippi College Chamber Choir



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* Expert presentations on Master Planning and role of space in church growth

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Pre-registration is requested. If you have questions requiring immediate attention or wish to register for this conference, call 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800 and ask for Matt Buckles, consultant, or Vonda Clower, secretary.

 **B**egin charting your course...

to **Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**.

Summer is still some months away but the time to plan for summer training conferences is now.

Below is a schedule for all conferences offered this summer at Gulfshore, and to the right are highlights from each one.

Registration begins on March 1, 1996. Registration should be arranged through Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. (601) 452-7261.

GULFSHORE SCHEDULE 1996

May 14-16	I Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 21-23	II Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 25-27	Single Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 28-31	III Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 31-June 4	I Youth Conference
June 4-8	II Youth Conference
June 8-12	III Youth Conference
June 13-17	IV Youth Conference
June 17-21	V Youth Conference
June 21-25	VI Youth Conference
June 25-29	Young Musicians Conference (CM)
July 1-5	Family Enrichment Conference (D&FM)
July 6-10	HeartSong '96 (CM)
July 11-13	Music Leadership Conference (CM)
July 18-20	I GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 20-25	I Centrifuge (BSSB)
July 25-27	II GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 27-August 1	II Centrifuge (BSSB)
August 1-3	III GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
August 3-8	III Centrifuge (BSSB)

GULFSHORE YOUTH WEEKS '96

SET 2 SERVE



CAMP DATE	CAMP PASTOR	CAMP MUSICIAN
May 31-June 4	James Lewis, Pastor FBC, New Albany	Michael Passons Franklin, Tenn.
June 4-8	Ken Hester, Pastor Mantee BC	Michael Passons Franklin, Tenn.
June 8-12	Alan Permenter, Youth Minister St. Andrew BC, Panama City	Michael Passons Franklin, Tenn.
June 13-17	Rob Boyd, Pastor FBC Indianola	Michael Passons Franklin, Tenn.
June 17-21	Gary Permenter, Youth Minister Mt. Vernon BC, Columbus	Kevin Williams Birmingham
June 21-25	Jim Cain, Youth Minister, Monticello BC	Kevin Williams Birmingham

Cost: \$124 per person. This is a Youth Camp experience your church **can** afford and it's as close as Mississippi Baptists' own Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian, Miss. Curriculum will be Centrifuge 1996 curriculum prepared by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Information: For program information call Sean Keith or Jim Didlake at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

Celebrating the Family July 1-5, 1996

Family Conferences:

- *Couples* - Alan/Jan Celoria, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- *Single Parenting* - Renee Coates Scheidt, Pearl River, La. - recently married widow, author, recording artist
- *Youth (Mini-Centrifuge)* - Ronney Joe Webb, FBC, Laurel
- *Children "TeamKid"* - Barbara Brown, Jackson
- *Preschool "TeamKid"* - Barbara Brown
- Featuring one hour conference on *PromiseKeepers* by Andy Lawhorn, Tupelo, and *Woman at Heart* by Renee Coates Scheidt

Family Ministries:

- *Family Morning Watch* - Shows Family, Ridgeland
- *Family Perceptive (Adventure Recreation)* - Ronney Joe Webb
- *Family Olympics*
- *Giant Cookout* - July 4th
- *Free Day for the Family (Wednesday)*

Note: Pastors or staff who bring three families will get one adult's expenses paid!!!

For more information contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651.

Growing Churches for Tomorrow

July 18-20

July 25-27

August 1-3

Training for All...

- Sunday School Workers •Discipleship Training Workers •Deacons •Pastors •Pastors' Wives
- RA Leaders •Ministers of Education •WMU Leaders •Media Library Workers (July 25-27)
- Black Church Leaders (Aug. 1-3)

...during one conference.

MUSIC LEADER: Kevin Hawkins, FBC, Picayune
PREACHERS: Gene Mims, BSSB, Conference 1
Ricky Blythe, FBC, Flora, Conferences 2 & 3

For more information, contact Larry Salter at 1-800-748-1651.



Senior Adult Retreats

I

May 14-16, 1996

Speaker: Mose Dangerfield, Discipleship & Family Ministry director, Jackson

Choir: Joymakers - First Baptist Church, Clinton

Crafts - Mattie Ray, Ripley

Genealogy - Glenn Shows, MBCB

(Registration: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday

Departure: 1:00 p.m. Thursday)

II

May 21-23, 1996

Speaker: J. Clark Hensley, former Sr. Adult consultant, retired, Clinton

Choir: Sweet Spirit Singers (Will present the first Sr. Adult musical in Miss. "Echoes From Country Churches")

Conferences: • Bible Answers For Sr. Adults • "Decision Is Yours" • Power Encounter (Prayer)
• When I Look At Myself In The Mirror • Sr. Adult Leadership
• Ministry Thru Crafts • Volunteers in Missions

III

May 28-31 (4 days)

Speaker: Horace Kerr, former Sr. Adult consultant, retired, Brandon

Choir: Victory Singers, Trinity, Southaven

SEAFOOD BANQUET/GIFT

"BUSTING LOOSE"

30 Years' Ministry To Single Adults

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

May 25-27, 1996

"BUSTING LOOSE" CONFERENCES INCLUDE:

- Bible Study • Single Parenting
- Singles in Missions • Building a Healthy Self-esteem
- Breaking the Hurting Cycle
- How to Laugh at Myself
- Forgiveness: Asking and Giving
- Ministry Thru Crafts • How to Work: Business Ethics

"BUSTING LOOSE" ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Swamp Tour • Canoe Trip • Adventure Hike
- Ship Island • Jet Skiing • New Orleans Trip
- Beach Activities • Pass Christian Tour

For more information contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651.

Music Leadership Conference

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

July 11-13

The music conference for your entire church's music leadership staff.

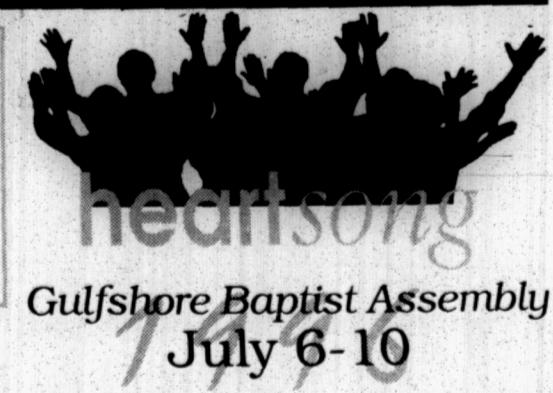
Concerts featuring Joe Martin, One Voice & Glenn Crosthwait

1996 Gulfshore YOUNG MUSICIANS' CAMP

Take advantage of inspirational music for your Young Musicians.

June 25-29

For more details on any of these conferences contact Church Music at 1-800-748-1651.



Created to Celebrate Lift His NAME

The Christian Performing Arts Festival • '96

Alta Woods Baptist Church
March 29-30, 1996 • \$20 per person

This year our featured guest will be "Re:Creations," a husband and wife drama team out of Maryville, Tenn. Charles M. Reese and Rebecca McCoy Reese of Re:Creations will be featured in the creative worship services and will also lead several drama conferences during the festival. Some of the other drama conferences will be storyboard telling, script writing, interpretive movement, acting and directing. Conferences will also be offered in beginning and advanced puppetry, beginning and advanced clowning, and several conference selections in church recreation. Look for the festival brochure in early February or call Wes Pegues at 1-800-748-1651.



Re:Creations

Let's pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine **1-800-787-PRAY**

S U N D A Y	M O N D A Y	T U E S D A Y	W E D N E S D A Y	T H U R S D A Y	F R I D A Y	S A T U R D A Y
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
churches to encourage men and boys of all ages to get involved in missions	families under stress because of divorce, extended illness, loss of job and other changes in their lives	a middle-age missionary in Brazil who had a tumor in his throat was healed through prayer... praise the Lord!	the needs of senior adults related to health, loneliness, and finances	the people in your community who are not involved in Bible study that they will be willing to join a Bible study in your church	Miss. Baptist Brotherhood as it promotes Agri-Missions, Campers on Mission, Church Renewal, Construction, Educational Missions, Hams and Medical-Dental Fellowships	the 100,000 homeless children in America
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday that it will help youth make right choices	the Mississippi WMU Annual Meeting March 18-19 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson	the Annie Armstrong offering goal of \$42,000,000 to be reached	the regional youth workers workshops in six simultaneous sessions March 23	the State Marriage Enrichment Seminar, Hazlehurst, March 22-23, 1996		
17	18	19	20	21		

Senior Adult
Leadership Retreat
March 26
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Vicksburg
Cost: \$5.00

Featuring...

Ray Wells, Louisiana Senior Adult Consultant. Topics will include **ENHANCING SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY** and **MISSION ENDEAVORS WITH SENIOR ADULTS**

Entertainment by...

Robert Battle from Jackson with magic/juggling and **Arlis Nichols** from Harperville (humorist)

Other personalities will include **John Pulley**, minister of senior adults at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson; **Ken Hopkins**, minister of senior adults, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; **Glenn Shows**, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept. for more information at 1-800-748-1651.

Revival Dates

Sandersville (Jones): March 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; special service Wed., 11 a.m.; Dennis Sewell, evangelist; Jimmy Knight, music; Donnie V. Parker, pastor.

Phillipston (Leflore): March 11-13; 7 nightly; Higdon Herrington, Itta Bena, evangelist; Christine Sims, Phillipston Church, music; Lester M. Jeffers, pastor.

Kilmichael, Kilmichael: March 10-13; services, 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Kenneth Hedgepeth, music; Gary White, pastor.

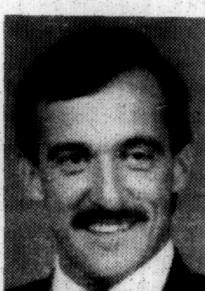
State Boulevard Church, Meridian: March 17-20; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-

Wed., services and pot luck dinner, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Ron Herrod, evangelist; Price Harris, music; Phil Smith, pastor.

Sidon (Leflore): March 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. followed by lunch and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Greg Martin, Long Beach, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville, music; David Bartlett, pastor.

Staff Changes

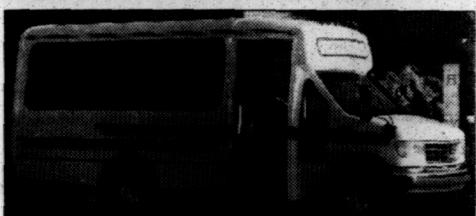
Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, has called **Ken C. Kirk** as pastor effective Jan. 15. Kirk has pastored churches in Louisiana and Lincoln and Pike counties. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.



Kirk

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STAFF POSITION OPENING: Director of Evangelism/Discipleship Ministries. Full-time. Major responsibilities include: coordinating evangelistic and outreach ministries, new member orientation and assimilation, congregational care, spiritual formation and stewardship. Salary and benefits are negotiable and based on experi-

ence and educational background. Send resume and references to: Riverchase United Methodist Church, Dr. Donald G. Wright, 1953 Old Highway 31, Birmingham, AL 35244.

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FOR SALE: 1971 Model 42-Passenger Silver Eagle bus. Detroit engine with Allison 4-spd. manual trans. Front & rear caps added. Seats re-upholstered. Maint.

Thursday, March 7, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Names in the News

Richard McCrory surrendered to the ministry on Jan. 14 at First Church, Verona. He and his wife, Tanya, are the parents of Jacob and Samuel. McCrory is available for pulpit supply. His phone number is (601) 566-9059 or contact the church. David E. Hamilton is pastor.



McCrory

Mt. Olive Church, Carroll County, licensed **Kenny Carver** to the ministry after he preached the evening message on Feb. 18. He is currently enrolled in Seminary Extension in Jackson and serving as interim pastor at Unity Church, Montgomery County. Richard Jenkins is pastor of Mt. Olive Church.

Thomas McKay of Richland is available for supply or interim pastor. He can be contacted at home (601) 932-6444 or at his office (601) 939-4942.

Odell Tebo is available again for interim and supply work. He has been recuperating from a heart attack, but has been given permission from his doctor to once again preach. He may be reached at 47 Lyles Road, Hattiesburg, MS



Randy Wood was honored for 20 years of service with a reception at **First Church, Verona.** He is presently serving as minister of music and youth. Pictured with him is his wife Marilyn and daughters Tara and Miranda. David E. Hamilton, pastor.

39401 or call (601) 582-4172.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — The inauguration for **Mark T. Coppenger** as president of Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will be held April 20-22. Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue



Church in suburban Memphis, will preach at a community-wide rally to be held on the seminary campus Sunday evening, April 21. Carl F.H. Henry, evangelical theologian, will bring the inaugural address on Monday afternoon, April 22.



Hurley Church, Hurley, licensed **Charles Lavon Burks** to the ministry. He has served at Hurley Church as full-time minister of education and youth for a year and a half. Burks is a graduate of Delta State University. He and his wife Renee have two daughters. Kenna Byrd, pastor, is pictured with Burks.

Just for the Record

First Church, Jackson, will host a single parent seminar on March 8-9. The seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the 8th, and will feature speaker Jeenie Gordon. Cost is \$20. Childcare will be provided, but a reservation must be made. Contact the church at (601) 949-1906.

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Uniform Unlimited forgiveness



By David Mitchell
Matthew 18

Forgiveness is something that often does not come easy. Many times we find ourselves with the same attitude as Sigmund Freud, who said: "One must forgive one's enemies, but not before they have been hanged."

The parable in Matthew 18 helps us better understand what Jesus meant when he said, "Judge not and ye shall not be judged. Condemn not and ye shall not be condemned. Forgive and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37). We should come to a point of understanding that, because God has forgiven us, we must forgive others, and there are no limitations that we can place on forgiveness.

Peter, probably asking the question on the minds of the other disciples, asked Jesus how often it was necessary to forgive someone who had sinned against him. Would seven times seven be enough (v. 21)? Seven times in Peter's mind seemed to be a sufficient number, but Jesus told Peter he should forgive his brother 70 times seven, which meant "without limit." The idea presented in the parable of the unforgiving servant is that we should forgive those who sin against us until they are completely forgiven, not only in word but also in thought, deed, and action. Jesus is teaching and talking about forgiveness without any limits.

The unforgiving servant (vv. 23-24). This parable, found only in Matthew, was used to teach the disciples the importance of forgiveness. Jesus told the story of a king who decided to "settle accounts with his servants" (v. 23). As he was settling his accounts, one slave was brought before him who owed the king 10,000 talents. Estimates in American currency range from several million to \$1 trillion. The "talent" was the highest-known denomination of currency in the ancient Roman empire — 10,000 was the highest number for which the Greek language had a particular word. Whatever the amount, it was an almost-inconceivable sum.

The king ordered that the slave, his wife, and his children, along with all of their possessions, be sold so that the debt might be paid. Selling people into slavery to pay their debts was a common practice in the ancient world. The servant promised to pay and begged the king for forgiveness. The king had pity on the servant, and almost beyond belief, the king forgave the huge debt. Not only would the king not sell him into slavery, but he would not demand repayment of any of the debt.

A small debt demanded (vv. 28-30). Leaving the king's presence, the servant found a fellow servant who owed him a small sum of money, 100 denarii. Scholars have estimated the amount to total from \$20 to \$1 million. A paltry sum in comparison to the previous one. The servant grabbed the man by the throat and demanded that he repay him the debt. This servant also begged for mercy, but found none. The servant refused to hear his fellow servant's pleas for mercy, and had him put in prison. "He was unwilling" (v. 30) means he made a conscious choice to harden his heart. When the king heard what had happened, he called the servant for whom he had forgiven the large debt, and very angrily denounced his action. The king demanded that the servant be put into prison "until he should pay back all he owed." Obviously a person in prison has no way of earning this kind of money, so the king's orders to repay the entire debt guaranteed a life sentence.

Jesus explains the parable (v. 35). This parable helps us see that Jesus did not want us to be ignorant about the things of the kingdom. In verse 35, Jesus applied the parable to the lives of those who are listening to him teach. The forgiveness that God had shown them could in no way be compared to the forgiveness that they might show someone else. Jesus is teaching that God can in no way accept those into his presence who are devoid of the ability to forgive their brother or sister. The implication is that those who refuse to forgive one who offended them from the heart will find no forgiveness from God. God is willing to forgive, but a person who has a spirit that is unforgiving is not capable of receiving God's forgiveness. God's desire for his children is that they mirror his image to a world of tears and sorrows. Compassion, mercy, grace, and forgiveness are the qualities that are presented as necessary for the true disciple in this parable.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Effective servanthood



By Clayton Littlejohn
2 Timothy 1, 2

Paul's encouragement and instruction to Timothy revealed that Christians should encourage one another to be bold, single-minded, and sensitive in their service to Christ.

There are several verses that insinuate Timothy was losing his zeal for Christ and even becoming ashamed of Christ and Paul and his desire to be a minister and servant to others (vv. 6-7, 13, 15; 4:10). This is a message to Timothy and all Christians to be an effective servant of Christ.

Equipped to serve (1:3-7). In verses 1, 2 Paul revealed who he was and his office as apostle to encourage Timothy and all Christians to continue in service to Christ, and to let us know that this message is divine and authoritative. Since Paul's natural father was not a believer he referred to his "forefathers" — Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — as men of faith and his example as obedient servants. In verse 5 he reminded Timothy of "the unfigured faith" (which means without hypocrisy) that was passed down from his believing grandmother and mother (Acts 16:1). Because these women were genuine and sincere servants of Christ, they produced one of history's great saints in Timothy.

Paul then encouraged Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which is in him by the putting on of my hands" (v. 6). The phrase "stir up" means to stoke the fire. Timothy was in danger of letting the fire go out of his ministry, so Paul exhorted him to stoke those ministerial coals and get it burning again. By Paul laying his hands on Timothy he symbolically and publicly put his blessings and approval upon Timothy and his ministry. All Christians have at least one spiritual gift that allows them to be effective servants of Christ. Maybe you, too, need to stir yours up. Sometimes we let the fire simmer because of fear of rejection or timidity. This fear is from Satan, not God (v. 7). God gives us the spirit of power, love, and sound mind so we can effectively serve him. Don't allow fear to put out the fires of effectiveness in your service to Christ.

A workman approved unto God (2:14-16). Satan has always been the master when it comes to twisting words and telling lies. He led Eve astray with words and even tried to lead Jesus astray with words. He had false teachers in Ephesus who were trying to lead the believers astray by debating the Word of God. Paul commanded Timothy to teach the believers not to get into a war of words (v. 4), but rather to be students of the Word (vv. 15-16). To accurately know the Word of God and to be an effective student of the Word requires work. Christians must be willing to diligently seek to know God's Word or they will get caught up in debates of profane and vain babbling, which lead to ungodliness. These are damnable, empty deceptions that Satan uses to make us ineffective and ignorant servants.

Kind and faithful service (2:20-26). Paul compared the church to a "great house" that has different types of vessels in it. Some are made of gold and silver (true believers), and some are wood and clay (unbelievers). It takes a transformation for wood and clay to become gold and silver, just as it does for an unbeliever to become a believer. This happens by repentance of sin and turning to Christ. Then and only then one becomes a "vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (v. 21). A believer will remain useful by daily fleeing "youthful lust" (all sin) and following righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. These attributes always lead to kind and faithful service.

The kind and faithful servant of Christ will always be gentle unto all men, through patience and teaching God's Word, not striving or fighting (v. 24). The unbeliever opposes God and his Word through his words and actions (v. 25). It is our duty to try to recover the unbelievers from Satan's "snare" (trap), through meekness (power under control), and being kind servants of Christ (v. 26).

The church is made up of imperfect people who need encouragement and direction. Why don't you be that person whom God uses to be an encouragement and example that is worthy of the Master's use? May the Lord bless you in your efforts.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.

Life and Work Defeating worry



By Linda Donnell
Matthew 6

There is a definite consequence to building one's treasure on earthly things and choosing material possessions as master. The person who does so will be afflicted with endless anxiety. In a materialistic world, constant worries and fears are natural since there is no security in money, power, and "things." There is that continuing possibility of loss or failure. But how do we not worry when we live in such an unstable society? Jesus offers some wise counsel.

Worry denies the Father's care (vv. 25-26). "Take no thought for your life...." Christ told his disciples (v. 25). In other words, do not take the pressure of anxious thought over the practical details of life. He was not advocating a thoughtless, reckless attitude toward life with no planning for the present or possible future. Jesus did not intend his followers to be lazy and unproductive. What he was warning against is the type of worried fear that robs life of joy and peace. We cannot be burdened with thoughts of material things and serve God in our fullest capacity. Our main area of concern should be our relationship with God.

Nature depends on God, and God provides (v. 26). Therefore, why can we, God's highest creation, not look to God to take care of our needs? Are we bold enough to think that he cannot take care of our circumstances? One poet said it this way:

Said the robin to the sparrow,
I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush round and worry so
Said the sparrow to the robin,
Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.

Worry hinders faith (vv. 27-30). Jesus pointed out that worry is pointless. Life is a gift of God, and he gives it to us one day at a time. Worry does nothing to add to our days (v. 27). On the contrary, anxiety can actually take away from life. Corrie Ten Boon said, "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength."

We should be as the lilies and trust God to take care of our needs (v. 28). Anxiety is the opposite of trust and faith. It puts the burden of the future on one's self, rather than on God.

Christians talk a lot about faith, but unfortunately, they do not always exhibit much evidence of it in their lives. Real faith involves some "letting go." The archer strikes the target, partly by pulling, partly by letting go. The reason we worry about the future is that we push and pull too hard and too continuously. We need to let go sometimes and let God take over. This is faith!

Worry characterizes pagans (vv. 31-32). According to these verses, excessive concern over physical necessities is essentially pagan. What we do reveals what we believe about God. If we worry, we are showing a lack of trust in God to provide basic needs.

Worry prevents spiritual growth (v. 33). "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" is quite a revolutionary statement when our human instincts tend to guide us in the exact opposite direction — I must eat, I must be clothed, I must live. We should forget self and come to the conclusion of Paul: "My God shall supply all my needs" (Phil. 4:19). This requires the most severe discipline, but the results of a daily diligence in seeking God first is perfect peace (Isa. 26:3).

Worry threatens the future (v. 34). This verse offers the best antidote for worry: "Live for today." A dying London doctor gave these words of advice to his son: "Remember that the biggest troubles you have to face in life are those that never come." This was in line with the advice given by Jesus to his disciples: handle the demands of each day without worrying about the unknown future.

How does your life exhibit trust in the heavenly Father? Is your God powerful enough to take care of the problems you face? Let us put our ability to be anxious to a good purpose: not about ourselves, but about the things that matter the most in God's sight.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
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(601) 922-2242



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

NOV. 1, 1995-
NOV. 30, 1995

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Mr. & Mrs. John Hollingsworth
Joseph William Holloman
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Hull
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Mr. Jewel Reese
Mrs. Virginia J. Platt
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Miss Frances Ratliff
Miss Mable Gaston
Mrs. Florence Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith
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(to be continued)

1-Year Service Pins Awarded



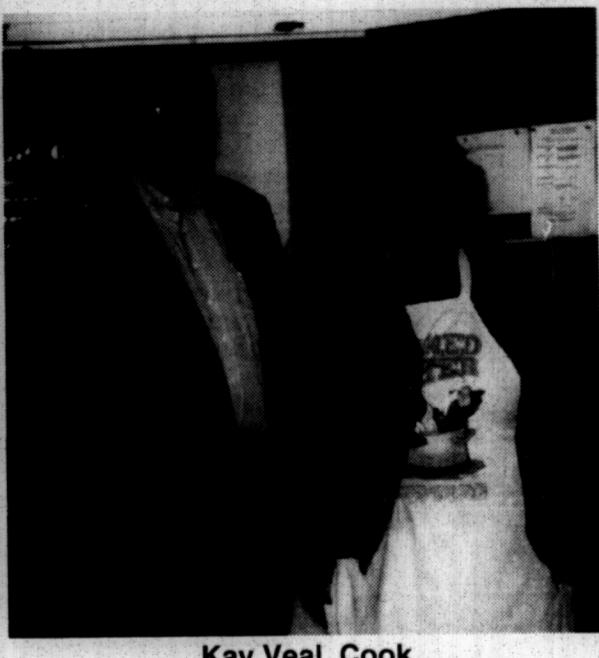
Junior and Lou Renfroe, Child Care Workers
India Nunnery Campus



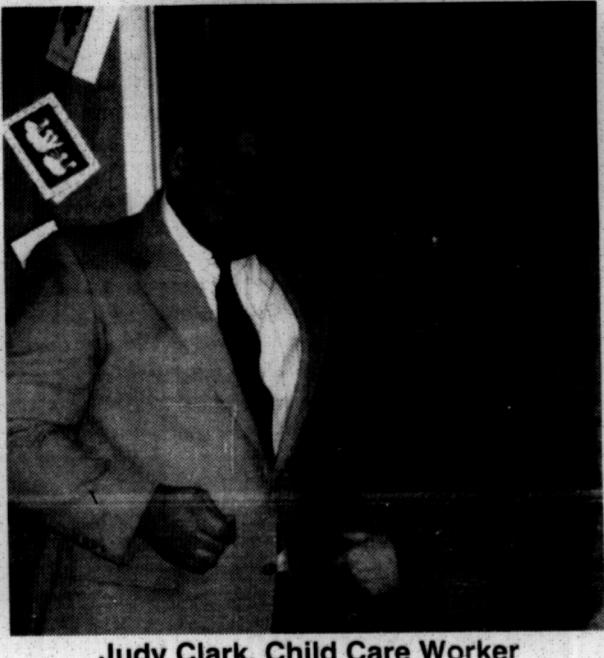
Keith May, Unit Coordinator/Chaplain
India Nunnery Campus



Jane Billieu, Child Care Worker
India Nunnery Campus



Kay Veal, Cook
India Nunnery Campus



Judy Clark, Child Care Worker
India Nunnery Campus

Pearl River Association's church staff/families retreat may be pioneer effort in Southern Baptist Convention

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A Feb. 23-24 weekend retreat for church staff members and their families — likely the first-ever in the Southern Baptist Convention — resulted in spiritual renewal and revealed a deep need for such an event, according to Ken Rhodes, director of missions for Pearl River Association in southwest Mississippi.

"It's the best thing we've done," said Rhodes, who reported 100 church staffers and their families from 30 area churches participated in the weekend.

In addition, 29 members of "guest teams" were brought in to help lead the retreat.

The idea for the retreat, which was held at the expansive conference center next door to the association's headquarters on McNeill-Steep Hollow Road near Carriere, was born about a year ago during an intense evaluation of how the association could better serve the county's churches, Rhodes said.

"We wanted to develop fellowship among the churches, and we decided to start with the church staff leadership and their families. We felt church staff members often have difficulty sharing their personal needs," he explained.

Sidney Ellis, state consultant for church renewal in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said he knew when Rhodes discussed the idea with him that it had merit.

"When I went to meetings in other states, I would ask if anyone had ever conducted a retreat specifically targeted at church staff members and their families. I couldn't find anyone who had done anything like this," Ellis said.

Rhodes and Ellis rolled up their sleeves and began recruiting local people to help them plan the retreat.

The planners decided there would be small group sharing time, where husbands and wives would be placed in different groups to discuss their personal concerns.

There would be family worship time, giving church staff members and their families time to relax and worship without the worry of planning and conducting the service.

Rhodes said 30 lay people from the county's churches flocked to help, offering child-

care, meal service, and any other assistance that was needed.

"Several of the church staff members, when they saw how many lay people were involved in the weekend, said to me, 'They really love us,'" Rhodes said.

The retreat wrapped up with a spiritually-intense service where church staffers and their families were allowed private prayer time beneath a tall cross erected at the front of the conference center's assembly room.

Many of the families walked forward and huddled closely together as they kneeled to pray at the cross.

"For me, this was long overdue. I'd highly recommend it for every association," said Jeanette Everett, whose husband, Rocky, pastors Harmony Church in Pearl River County.

"I knew most of the pastors (in the association), but I didn't know their wives and families before the retreat. The retreat has given me a new perspective; it's taken me back to where I need to be with God," said Everett, who is pregnant with the couple's fourth child.

Billy Dowdy, pastor of West Union Church in Pearl River County, attended the retreat with wife Vickie and teenaged daughters Becky and Katie.

"It's the best weekend I've ever experienced, and I've had some good ones. I hope these retreats spring up all over the country," he said.

Dowdy pointed out that while he had attended lay renewal events, he had not gone into the small groups or other segments aimed at lay people.

"This was my first small group. Pastors need to share things, too," he said.

Ellis was impressed with the retreat's outcome.

"I saw the need for this retreat, but being there definitely opened my eyes. It turned out to be a time of healing and renewal for church staff members, but it was even more so for their wives and families," he said.



Ken Rhodes (seated left on platform), Pearl River Association director of missions, and **Dan Howard** (seated right on platform), pastor of Woodville Church, Woodville, lead a session Feb. 24 during the church staff/family retreat at the association's conference center near Carriere. The session was held at the center's just-completed outdoor amphitheater. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Rhodes said the association will carefully evaluate the success of the event.

"We went in with an open agenda as to the future of these retreats. We're going to decide where to go from here, but we know there's no limit to how far this idea could reach," he predicted.

For more information on the

retreat, Rhodes can be contacted at the association's office at 1376 McNeill-Steep Hollow Road, Carriere, MS 39426. Telephone: (601) 798-2372.

Ellis can be contacted at MBCB Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

"Reading Music" offered by New Orleans Seminary

Registration is open for the fourth course of an eight-course training series for bivocational church music directors and church educational workers. The courses are offered at various locations around the state by New Orleans Seminary.

"Reading Music: Harmony/Melody" will meet once each week for eight consecutive weeks from 7-9 p.m. at three Mississippi locations:

— Purvis: First Church, beginning March 18. Teacher: James Hayes.

— Columbus: Antioch Church, beginning March 19. Ed Nix, teacher.

— Jackson: Broadmoor Church, beginning April 1. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

The course is part of a two-year cycle of eight courses. Upon completion of the cycle, students earn a church music certificate from New Orleans Seminary.

Cost of each course is \$75. There is a one-time fee of \$25.

For more information, contact coordinator Chester Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

Baptist Record

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March 7, 1996



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I don't understand the addictive nature of gambling. How can you get hooked on gambling?

If there is a void in one's life, then situations, people, or behaviors will step in and try to fill the void. No one sets out to become addicted to gambling (or sex, or drugs, or chocolate, for that matter). With addictive behavior, there is usually an unmet need that may not be realized but is satisfied by the thrill and excitement of an activity such as gambling. Almost everyone has an area of temptation. Hebrews 12:1 describes this as the "sin that so easily entangles." Gambling addicts are tempted by how far they can push their luck, and the potential thrill of winning keeps them gambling even in the face of massive losses. Addictions help mediate past hurts by convincing a person to concentrate on the present instead of forgetting the past or planning for the future. If you believe a friend or loved one suffers from addictive behavior, talk with your pastor or a Christian counselor to find out how you can help.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

I have so much racial hatred because of an incident early in my life, and all attempts to put it out of my heart have failed. How can I conquer this evil?

The evil nature of the incident is the issue — not the skin color of the person who violated you. Where there is sin, innocent people get hurt regardless of race. You were a victim, and whether your violator feels that way or not, God declares it wrong when such conduct hurts one of his children. To conquer this evil, look at God's brokenness over your pain, much like you would feel if one of your children were hurt in this way. He can comfort you, just as you can comfort your children. There will come a day when your violator will be called to give an account of his/her life. I wouldn't want to be in his shoes if he hasn't repented and accepted Christ. You have to remember, however, that you will be called to the same reckoning. How do you want to finish the race set before you (Heb. 12:1-2)? Keep yourself focused on Christ, not on your fellow runners.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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HBYN EBTWW KQ MAHB HBYAO CWQDFE TWZ
MAHB HBYAO BYOZE HQ EYYF HBY WQOZ; SIH
HBYN EBTWW XQH CAXZ BAV; BY BTHB MAHB-
ZOTMX BAVEYWC COQV HBYV.

BQEYT CAJY: EAL

This week's clue: W equals L.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Forty.